

Hope

BY JAN DE CHAMBRIER

Her name was Esperanza... HOPE. Yet my first impression viscerally contradicted the meaning of this word in any language. Waif-like, an urban wildflower that had poked through concrete only to be trampled on one too many times, desolation appeared to define her.

My husband Philippe and I had just arrived in Kuwait to minister at a large international church comprised of individuals from 56 different nations. Travel-weary and anticipating a quiet evening of preparation for the full week ahead, we were being driven to our place of lodging by one of the hosting pastors when his cell phone interrupted with an urgent message. A young homeless woman had just appeared at the senior pastor's office, stating that she had made a plan to take her life that evening and simply desired to make a last confession. Knowing that our call is healing and restoration, the pastors of the church asked if we would come and help her. Our answer was an unequivocal yes.

With desperate eyes of unworthiness, Esperanza apologetically excused herself as I crossed the room to greet her, almost like a leper crying out, "Unclean! Unclean!" Overcome with compassion, I opened my arms to enfold this precious young woman, despite her embarrassment at not having been able to bathe for quite a while. Embracing her like a mother, I felt Esperanza begin to relax in my arms. After a few minutes of simply holding her, it was as though she were fulfilling the words of the psalmist in Psalm 131:2 - "But I have calmed and quieted myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content." Jesus was quieting her with His love as my husband, two other pastors and their wives and I simply trusted in His presence.



Over the next couple of hours as the Holy Spirit guided and provided every word, we led Esperanza through a time of deep healing prayer. She was able to forgive and release the hatred she had held towards her earthly father and express deep grief over the loss of her mother. She affirmed her belief in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord as a spirit of joy began to wash over her in cleansing waves. We spoke of the plans God had for her life: to prosper and not to harm her, to give her HOPE and a future, to fulfill the destiny of her given name. At the close of our session, Esperanza said, "I feel like an entirely different person! How could I have ever even thought of taking my life?!"

And HOPE does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Romans 5:5



Jan de Chambrier, an ordained minister, is called to express the love of Jesus to His children around the world through healing and restoration. Serving as a Global Leader for International Leadership Institute, Jan has helped to train indigenous Christian leaders in many different countries. Jan and her husband Philippe, are founding members of Christ Restoration Ministries in Houston. They have been married since 1988 and have one awesome son, Paul.